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**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SEEKS COMMENTS ON**  
**PROPOSED COMMERCIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY**

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**FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND IN NEW MEXICO**

(Santa Fe, NM) - The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public comment on a draft permit for a commercial hazardous waste disposal facility -- if permitted, this facility would be the first of its kind in New Mexico.

Although numerous permits have been issued for disposal of municipal solid waste, hazardous chemicals and other hazardous substances (regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)) have usually been shipped outside New Mexico for disposal. The only hazardous wastes that have been disposed in-state are defense-derived hazardous/radioactive mixed waste disposed at the U. S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad.

Gandy Marly Inc. (GMI) of Tatum, New Mexico is proposing to construct the Triassic Park hazardous waste landfill approximately 43 miles east of Roswell off Highway 380 in Chaves County. The proposed site was selected because it is geologically favorable and is underlain by more than 600 feet of Triassic-age mudstones, a geological formation that provides a natural

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barrier to contaminants that could potentially migrate from the landfill to groundwater. In addition to meeting siting criteria, the Environment Department has also required that GMI commit to numerous environmental safeguards including double lining of all disposal cells with an impermeable synthetic membrane to minimize the potential for waste releases, construction of redundant monitoring systems to ensure early detection of any liner failure, and development of rigorous and specific contingency plans to address any detected contaminant releases.

According to the draft permit, wastes that could be disposed at Triassic Park include spent commercial chemicals such as waste solvents, certain wastewater treatment sludges, gas pipeline residues, and petroleum refining wastes. The permit requires that all wastes be tested, and in some cases treated to reduce the contaminant levels, prior to disposal.

The Environment Department is currently seeking public comment on the draft permit for the Triassic Park facility. The public comment period runs through May 15, 2001. Commenters may also request that a public hearing be held concerning the proposed permit.

A copy of the draft permit along with a fact sheet outlining the pertinent aspects of the permit and describing the public comment process may be reviewed at the Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau web site ([www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/hazwaste\\_home.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/hazwaste_home.html)) by following the *Permits/Draft Permits* link. For additional information regarding this draft permit, including a location where the draft permit may be viewed without the use of a computer, contact Steve Pullen, Water Resource Engineering Specialist, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau.

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